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## FACTS ABOUT FALLS CITY FARMSTEADS

### Falls City, Nebraska

- Official Name: Falls City Farmsteads.
- Location: In Richardson County, southeastern Nebraska, 4 miles north of Falls City.
- Number of Units: 9 dwellings, each with a poultry house and vegetable cave.
- History of Project: The Falls City Farmsteads project was initiated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in September 1934, through the Nebraska Rehabilitation Corporation which transferred its assets to the Resettlement Administration on October 1, 1935. The project is now under the jurisdiction of the Farm Security Administration.
- Purpose of Project: The project provides farmstead homes for 9 destitute families taken from the relief rolls of Richardson County. These families, through intensive cultivation of their individual units and through participation in the cooperative activities, are working toward social and economic stability and a satisfactory standard of living.
- Project Description: The Falls City Farmsteads is an agricultural community that has been developed on a tract of 237 acres of fertile land. The individual units averaging 6.5 acres each are intensively farmed by the homesteaders for the production of fruit and vegetables. The principal crops are strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, asparagus, grapes and general garden produce. Each unit has 100 hens and 300 chicks. A cooperative farm of 157 acres is being operated, of which 90 acres have been set aside for pasture, 5 acres each for grapes and a cherry orchard and the remaining acreage rotated in corn, grain sorghum, potatoes, alfalfa and truck crops. Livestock is also being raised cooperatively. Water is supplied from individual wells with hand pumps and irrigation is not necessary on this project. An outside toilet has been built on each homestead unit. Although the houses have been wired, electricity is not being provided at present. A community building consisting of a meeting hall, 2 rooms and kitchen has been constructed.
- House Description: All the dwellings on the Falls City Farmstead project are 4 room frame houses with basement or modern plumbing.



The Homesteaders:

All the families selected for occupancy on this project were originally taken from the low-income industrial workers in Scottsbluff and vicinity who had agricultural background. During the years between 1920 and 1930, a great many farm laborers and tenants, unable to get a satisfactory return from farming, moved to the city and sought work in the industrial establishment there. The economic depression left many of them stranded without adequate means of earning a living. All the male heads had been laborers or tenants when last engaged in agriculture and had no opportunity to own land. The Scottsbluff project is giving these families a chance to become farm owners. In recent months, vacancies have been filled by families removed from sub-standard lands by the Land Utilization land retirement plan. All these new homesteaders have definite farm backgrounds.

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